



National Aeronautics and
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Goddard Space Flight Center

Inside Wallops

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New Wind Data Improving Forecasts

NASA scientists using weather forecast models with newly incorporated data from the wind-measuring NASA Scatterometer (NSCAT) instrument onboard Japan's Advanced Earth Observing Satellite, are seeing significant improvements in their ability to analyze weather patterns and generate more accurate forecasts.

"Initial experiments with wind measurements taken by the scatterometer indicate the potential to extend the useful range of weather forecasts in the Southern Hemisphere by about 24 hours, said Dr. Robert Atlas (Code 910.3). "We have also seen improvement in early analyses and forecasts of storms in the Northern Hemisphere. Specifically, NSCAT appears to more accurately locate both cyclones and fronts, and to improve the forecasts of their location by as much as several hundred kilometers."

Such information should assist meteorologists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Prediction Center, Camp Springs, MD, to issue more accurate warning that could help reduce the loss of life and property at sea and along the U.S. coastline.

The NSCAT project wind images are available via the Internet at: <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/winds>

"Each day we provide a 'daily wind movie' of the Pacific Ocean that allows people to see the last 26 hours of NSCAT wind data. Anyone who has an interest in what the winds are doing—weather forecasters, scientists, boaters, surfers, fisherman—can log on and get an up-to-date picture from NSCAT," said Jim Graf, NSCAT project manager at JPL. Data of the Atlantic Ocean and other oceans will be on-line in a few weeks.



Work has resumed on the new entrance to the Range Control Center. Initial work was halted when the contractor defaulted on the contract. The work is now being done by H&H personnel and the project should be completed in April.

PAO Digital Photo

Ash Wednesday Storm - 35 Years Ago

The week of March 5, 1962 began with Eastern Shoremen joining the rest of the nation in continuing the celebration of Colonel John Glenn's first U.S. orbital flight. Little did they know that tragedy would hit in a matter of a few hours.

A number of factors combined to produce the worse flood recorded in Shore history. A flood that claimed three lives. Water rampaged through streets, destroyed vehicles, rushed into homes and stores. The three days of storm and tides which became known as "The Ash Wednesday"

storm cut off power and telephone service to Chincoteague. The causeway became impassable and the town was swamped in water as deep as five feet.

More than 4,000 Chincoteague residents were evacuated by helicopter and boat to the Wallops Station Main Base. One thousand men, women, and children were housed in offices, shops and other buildings. About 60 of the sick were cared for in the Station hospital. Wallops Station provided assistance with the Chincoteague water supply, furnished motor trans-

portation, telephone, radio, health and message service, ambulance, quarters for the post office, food, clothing and bedding, and set up a locator center for families separated in the storm.

A large number of Wallops employees remained on duty for long hours until emergency services personnel arrived from federal, state, county, and volunteer agencies.

The greatest destruction on Wallops Island was inflicted on the protective seawall. More than one-fourth of the steel pilings were torn out or loosened by heavy seas. Windows were broken and doors torn free from buildings. Some steel walls and heavy doors in the rocket assembly buildings were smashed. A blast facility and corrugated steel building were demolished. Three storage sheds were wiped out and disappeared in the waves.

None of the Island's five launch pads, launchers, or blockhouses were damaged. The long-range FPS-16 radar installation suffered no damage, but 12 inches of water damaged instrumentation on the first floor of the two story building. The Radar Tracking Center suffered serious damage from water, mud and sand. Water 28 inches deep flooded electronic components, plot boards, furniture and office equipment. Power to the Island was lost but the causeway escaped damage.



The above photo of the old Seagull Motel and Taylor's Seafood, South Main Street, Chincoteague was taken during ebb tide.

NASA File Photo

March is Women's History Month

During Women's History Month, the Federal Women's Program (FWP) is sponsoring the following activities:

March 12 - Artistic presentation of the Life and Works of Charlotte Perkins Gilman on Wallops Channel 6 from noon to 1 p.m. For more information on Ms. Gilman check out these web sites:

<http://orchard.cortland.edu/gilmanNews/gilmanPage.html>

<http://av.yahoo.com/bin/query?P=Charlotte+Perkins+Gilman&hc=1&hs=O>

March 19 - FWP committee will join senior staff members at Morning Coffee in the cafeteria. Committee members will be available to answer questions and accept comments from Wallops employees.

March 26 - Goddard Women in Management Panel Discussion - Channel 6 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Anyone who wants to ask questions should contact Pat Pruitt on x1411 immediately following the speaker's presentation.

Check out the FWP web page for Women's History links: <http://www.wff.nasa.gov/~web/FWP>

Mission 2000 Update

The Request for Information (RFI) to industry for the sounding rocket refocusing effort was issued on February 25. The deadline for industry response is March 12. The RFI can be found on the Internet at <http://procurement.nasa.gov/EPS/GSFC/class.html>

NASA Headquarters has signed a Space Act Agreement with the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority. The next step is the development of an agreement between the Space Flight Authority and Wallops/ Goddard to more specifically layout the arrangements for the operations of the Virginia Spaceport on the south-end of Wallops Island.

House for Rent

Two bedroom, one bath bungalow in Leemont, VA. \$350 monthly. Call 665-4761.

Notice to NASA Employees

The staff of the Human Resources Operations Office/Code 113 will be in training from Tuesday, March 11 - Thursday, March 13. During that time, phone mail and Email messages will be checked, and urgent messages may be left at x1370.

The Wallops Federal Women's Program Committee Proudly Presents Wallops Profile--



Betty Flowers

I am one of two that work in the Public Affairs Office at Wallops. We represent Wallops to the public, industry, the media and educational mediums. Frequently, I am the first person someone talks to when they call Wallops. I write articles, compile information and do the layout for *Inside Wallops* and also am responsible for distribution to retirees. I'm the person that schedules the main gate sign and assists with VIP and media tours.

There is never a typical day in our office because we do anything and everything. I represent Wallops at local career fairs, schedule employees for school visits, handle public inquiries, requests for information and complaints. I also am a point of contact for Wallops employees "when they need something and don't know where else to go".

I actually came to Wallops 14 years ago as a co-op student through the Eastern Shore Community College.

I had no desire to work full-time but the offer to work at NASA was too good to resist. I was in the Sounding Rocket Branch before moving over to Public Affairs where I've been for the past three years. I like every aspect of my job. It's fun, interesting, always changing and I get to talk to all sorts of people. The biggest challenge of this job would have to be maintaining composure, sanity and a sense of humor in any kind of situation.

My first NASA mentor probably did the most to mold me into a government employee. She accepted nothing less than perfection and very quickly dissolved any previous "business" training I may have had. Now my office mate serves as my best critic and strongest supporter.

I am an outdoors person. We live in the country, only a mile to a boat ramp. After talking all day, I enjoy a quiet walk to the dock to stand and listen to the shore birds and geese. We have two airplanes. My favorite place to fly is over the Shore at sunset or down the coastline. I collect Occupied Japan figurines, so yard sales and flea markets are my weakness.

My advice for young girls today would be to first learn who you are, change what you can and accept what you can not. Believe in yourself, if you can dream it, you can do it and always remember that your altitude is determined by your attitude.

Wallops homepage is online @ <http://www.wff.nasa.gov>

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Patrick's Day Party

March 17 -- right after work

F-3 -- Rocket Club

Snacks -- Riverdance Video

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 22

10 a.m. -- Bldg. F3

Ages 10 and under

Contact Jerry McIntire - ext. 1889

(Raindate March 29)

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